

will retire next week after 29 years of dedicated service to Commerce Township, MI. A lifelong resident of Commerce, public service has come naturally to Bob, just as it did for his father, a former township supervisor and State legislator. After being appointed as Commerce Township supervisor in 1967, he was elected in 1968 and began his distinguished career. Bob has also served as a member of several boards and associations, including the Michigan Townships Association and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

For over a quarter of a century, Bob Long has been a model supervisor. He has balanced the budget with one of the lowest tax rates in the area, still managing to implement impressive improvements in the roads, sewers, drainage, and other infrastructure projects.

In the years of development and growth, Bob Long has met the challenges of the times with professionalism and compassion. He has maintained Commerce Township's environment by securing the preservation of vulnerable wetlands areas and acquiring a 500-acre natural park with 15,000 newly planted trees. Bob led the fight to prevent annexation of sections of Commerce to neighboring cities. And he was instrumental in bringing a senior center and full-service hospital to the Lakes area.

Bob Long is a model citizen and public servant. His hard work and dedication are reflected not only in the books, but the beauty of Commerce Township. Congratulations, Bob. We wish you a long and healthy retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE KERN COUNTY  
HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COM-  
MERCE

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 27, 1996*

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today in order to pay tribute to an organization that is known in California's central valley for its wonderful entrepreneurial spirit. This organization is the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

More than a decade after its inception, the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has diligently served owners of minority businesses and has proven its effectiveness as a

leader in the greater business community of Kern County.

The Hispanic chamber came from rather humble beginnings—just 15 members attended its first meeting in 1985—but its founders were not lacking in vision nor in perseverance. The Hispanic chamber now proudly boasts an impressive 250 members and is still growing strong.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for providing the Latino business community with such outstanding leadership. I hope that Kern County residents will continue to support vigorously the members and businesses of this well-respected organization.

UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP WITH  
TAIWAN—THE NATIONAL DAY OF  
THE REPUBLIC ON CHINA ON  
TAIWAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 27, 1996*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, since we all expect that the Congress will adjourn within the next few days, I want to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to the Republic of China on Taiwan just a few days early. The national holiday is celebrated on October 10. October 10 of this year marks the 85th anniversary of the Chinese revolution of 1911 and the formation of the Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, this past year was an important but a difficult one for the people of Taiwan and the Government of Taiwan. The people of Taiwan faced a severe test when the Government went forward with open and democratic presidential elections while the People's Republic of China launched missiles less than 50 miles off the coast of Taiwan in an effort to intimidate the voters and the Government.

Despite the Beijing government's attempts to bully and intimidate the voters of Taiwan, the Taiwanese electorate ignored the threat of military attack and participated in that election in overwhelming numbers. More than two-thirds of the eligible voters went to the polls. President Lee Teng-Hui won 54 percent of the vote in a four-way race and became the first popularly elected President in the history of the Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan's continued independence and security is crucial to the United States economically, militarily, and politically. Economically, Taiwan is the sixth largest trading partner of the United States, and Taiwan is one of the only nations in Asia that has successfully reduced its trade deficit with our Nation every year for the past 10 years—an action that has been taken with the active support of the Taipei government.

Militarily, Taiwan's survival is important to maintain balance in the Pacific region, and its continued military strength is an important element in contributing to the reduction of tensions throughout the region. Politically, Taiwan represents one of the finest examples in the world of the success of efforts to foster democracy and freedom and respect for human and civil rights. Taiwan began as a country desperately in need of American assistance for food, infrastructure, and military assistance. Now Taiwan is an example of incredible success—Taiwan now is an important source of assistance to other emerging democracies. Simply put, it is in the United States' interest to help maintain the independence and integrity of the democratic Republic of China on Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this occasion to welcome the new Representative of Taiwan in the United States, Dr. Jason Hu. Dr. Hu previously served as the head of the Government Information Office in Taipei and was a principal advisor to President Lee Teng-hui. His presence here is a clear signal that the Government of Taiwan greatly values a continuing, strong relationship between our two countries. I would also like to note that two of Taiwan's best diplomats are leaving positions here in Washington to take new senior positions in the Foreign Ministry in Taipei—Dr. Lyushen Shen and Mr. James Huang. Both of these senior have served their country well here in Washington and those of us who have had the opportunity to work with them will miss their knowledge, skill, and commitment.

I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of the National Day this October 10. May the friendship and strong relations that have bound our two countries for many generations continue for many, many more.